

The Drug Factor

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Office of Drug Control Policy

Prevention ~ Treatment ~ Enforcement

Byrne JAG Funding Reduced

**Funds cut
from \$520
to \$170
million**

Upcoming Events

Stephanie Covington—
3/7/08—Galt House in
Louisville, KY

Action with Heart—
4/17/08—Barren River
State Park

Last month, the Federal government drastically reduced the central funding used for law enforcement called the Byrne Justice Assistance Grant (JAG) program. This program funds critical task force operations in all states. These are the essential police task forces that find and prosecute drug-related and violent crime.

The Byrne JAG program was cut from \$520 million, a cut already from previous years, to \$170 million. Congress had previously agreed to fund the program at the \$600 million level to keep local law enforcement alive, but the Federal Omnibus budget saw the drastic cuts. According to

Ronald Brooks, Pres. of the National Narcotics Law Enforcement Officers Associations' Coalition, representing 70,000 law enforcement officers nationwide, "Without maintaining the bare-bones local-state-federal partnership that makes prosecuting major, mobile, drug-funded criminals possible—without the full and proper funding to the Byrne JAG program immediately—public safety will suffer."

The Kentucky General Assembly has supported drug task force efforts by allocation \$1 million for each year of the FY 06/07 biennium to maintain current efforts.



**Kentucky
ranks second
in the nation
in marijuana
eradication.**

Justice and Public Safety Cabinet

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Kentucky's Drug Task Forces in Jeopardy

Kentucky has 14 multi-jurisdiction drug task forces which serve 50 counties with a combined population of 2,477,163 individuals. The Kentucky State Police have piloted a new

drug task force model which serves 10 more counties. Operation UNITE drug task forces covers 29 counties. Federal funds have been reduced since 2004 which puts KY in jeopardy.

2004—\$6.9 million

2005—\$4.4 million

2006—\$2.7 million

2007—\$3.3 million

2008—1.0 million
(based on federal cuts)